1. (Currently amended) A [[L]] liquid pharmaceutical formulation for the prolonged release of active principle(s) (AP), ~~this~~ said formulation comprising an aqueous colloidal suspension of low viscosity based on submicronic particles of water-soluble biodegradable polymer [PO] [[(PO)]] carrying hydrophobic groups [HG] [[(HG)]], said submicronic particles being non-covalently associated with at least one active principle (AP), wherein ~~characterized in that~~:

[[the]] a dispersion medium of the suspension comprises ~~consists essentiallyof~~ water[[,]];

~~said formulation is capable of being injected parenterally and~~

said formulation forms ~~then forming~~ a gelled deposit *in vivo* when injected parenterally and ~~this formation of a gelled deposit~~[[,]] ;

~~on the one hand being~~ wherein said formulation is at least partly caused by at least one physiological protein present *in vivo*[[,]] ;

~~and on the other hand making it possible to~~ prolongs and controls the *in vivo* release time of the AP beyond 24 h after administration[[,]] ;

[[it]] is liquid under the injection conditions[[,]] ;

and [[it]] is [[also]] liquid at the physiological temperature and/or at the physiological pH and/or in the presence of:

a physiological electrolyte in a physiological concentration,

and/or at least one surfactant.

2. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1, characterized in that its concentration of [PO] is set at a ~~sufficiently high to~~ value that allows the formation of a gelled deposit *in vivo* after parenteral injection, in the presence of at least one physiological protein.

3. (Currently amended) A [[L]] liquid pharmaceutical formulation for the prolonged release of active principle(s) (AP), this formulation:

a) being liquid in the ambient atmosphere[[,]] ;

b) [[also]] being liquid at the physiological temperature and/or at the physiological pH and/or in the presence of:

a physiological electrolyte in a physiological concentration,

and/or at least one surfactant[[,]] ;

c) and comprising an aqueous colloidal suspension of low viscosity based on submicronic particles of water-soluble biodegradable polymer [PO] carrying hydrophobic groups [HG], said particles being non-covalently associated with at least one active principle AP, and the dispersion medium of the suspension comprises ~~consisting essentially of~~ water,

characterized in that its concentration of [PO] is set at a ~~sufficiently high to~~ value that allows the formation of a gelled deposit *in vitro*, in the presence of at least one protein.

4. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1, ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that its~~ wherein the concentration of [PO] is ~~such that~~:

$[PO] \geq 0.9.C1$,

~~preferably $20.C1 \geq [PO] \geq C1$,~~

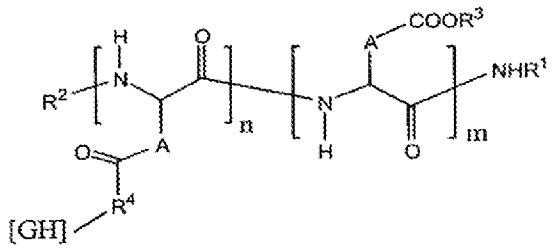
~~and particularly preferably $10.C1 \geq [PO] \geq C1$~~,

where C1 is the "induced gelling" concentration of the particles of PO, as measured in an IG test.

5. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that its~~ wherein said formulation has a viscosity [[is]] less than or equal to 5 Pa.s.

6. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~polymer~~ [PO] is a polyamino acid formed of aspartic units and/or glutamic units, at least one of said ~~some of these~~ units carrying grafts containing at least one hydrophobic group [HG] [[(HG)]].

7. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 6, characterized in that the [PO] is [[(are)]] defined by general formula (I) below:



(I)

in which:

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of: H, a linear C2 to C10 alkyl or branched C3 to C10 alkyl, benzyl, a terminal amino acid unit and [[or]] -R^4-[HG];

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of: H, a linear C2 to C10 acyl or branched C3 to C10 acyl group, a pyroglutamate and [[or]] -R^4-[HG];

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of: H and [[or]] a cationic entity ~~preferably~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~:

metal cations ~~advantageously~~ selected from the subgroup consisting of ~~comprising~~ sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium,

organic cations ~~advantageously~~ selected from the subgroup consisting of ~~comprising~~:

cations based on amine,

cations based on oligoamine,

cations based on polyamine ~~(polyethylenimine being particularly preferred)~~, and

cations based on amino acid(s) ~~advantageously~~ selected from the class consisting of ~~comprising~~: cations based on lysine or arginine,

and cationic polyamino acids advantageously selected from the subgroup comprising polylysine and oligolysine;

R^4 is a direct bond or a spacer based on 1 to 4 amino acid units;

A independently is a radical -CH_2-- ~~(aspartic unit)~~ or -CH_2-CH_2- ~~(glutamic unit)~~;

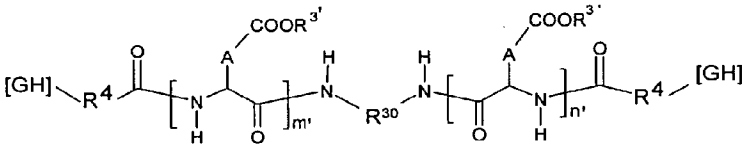
n/(n+m) is defined as the molar grafting rate and its value is sufficiently low for [PO], dissolved in water at pH 7 and at 25°C, to form a colloidal suspension of submicronic particles of [PO], ~~n/(n+m) preferably being between 1 and 25 mol % and particularly preferably between 1 and 15 mol %~~;

n + m varies from 10 to 1000 and ~~preferably between 50 and 300~~;

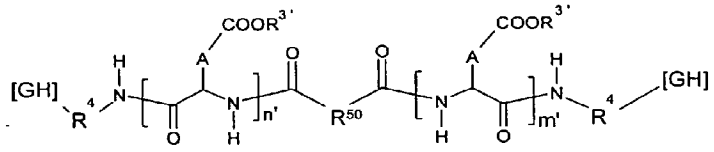
[HG] is a hydrophobic group.

8. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 6, characterized in that the [PO] has ~~(have)~~ one of general formulae (II), (III) and (IV) below:

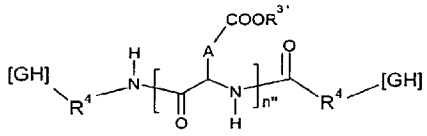
(II)



(III)



(IV)



in which:

[HG] is a hydrophobic group;

R^{30} is a linear C2 to C6 alkyl group;

$R^{3'}$ is H or a cationic entity ~~preferably~~ selected from the group comprising:

metal cations ~~advantageously~~ selected from the subgroup ~~comprising~~ consisting of sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium,

organic cations ~~advantageously~~ selected from the subgroup ~~comprising~~ consisting of: cations based on amine, cations based on oligoamine, cations based on polyamine ~~(polyethylenimine being particularly preferred)~~, and cations based on amino acid(s) ~~advantageously~~ selected from the class comprising cations based on lysine or arginine, and cationic polyamino acids ~~advantageously~~ selected from the subgroup comprising polylysine and oligolysine;

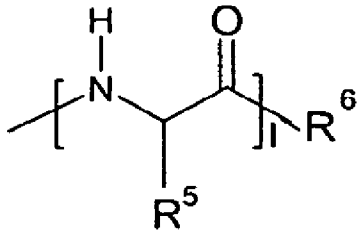
R^{50} is a C2 to C6 alkyl, dialkoxy or diamine group;

R^4 is a direct bond or a "spacer" based on 1 to 4 amino acid units;

A independently is a radical -CH_2- ~~(aspartic unit)~~ or -CH_2-CH_2-- ~~(glutamic unit)~~;

n' + m' or n' is defined as the degree of polymerization and varies from 10 to 1000 ~~and preferably between 50 and 300~~.

9. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 7 [[or 8]], characterized in that the [HG] of the [PO] each independently of one another are a monovalent radical of the formula below:



(HG)

in which:

R^5 is a methyl ~~(alanine)~~, isopropyl ~~(valine)~~, isobutyl ~~(leucine)~~, sec-butyl ~~(isoleucine)~~ or benzyl ~~(phenylalanine)~~;

R^6 is a hydrophobic radical containing from 6 to 30 carbon atoms;

1 varies from 0 to 6.

10. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that all or some of~~ wherein at least one of the hydrophobic radicals R^6 of the [PO] [[are]] is independently selected from the group of radicals ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

a linear or branched alkoxy containing from 6 to 30 carbon atoms and ~~optionnally of~~ containing at least one heteroatom ~~(preferably O and/or N and/or S)~~ and/or at least one unit of unsaturation,

an alkoxy containing 6 to 30 carbon atoms, having one or more fused carbocyclic rings and ~~optionally~~ containing at least one unit of unsaturation and/or at least one heteroatom ~~(preferably O and/or N and/or S)~~,

an alkoxyaryl or an aryloxyalkyl having 7 to 30 carbon atoms and capable of containing at least one unit of unsaturation and/or at least one heteroatom ~~(preferably O and/or N and/or S)~~.

11. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 9 [[or 10]], ~~characterized in that all or some of~~ wherein the hydrophobic radical R^6 of the graft of the [PO] is derived from an alcohol precursor selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of: octanol, dodecanol, tetradecanol, hexadecanol, octadecanol, oleyl alcohol, tocopherol and cholesterol.

12. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 6, characterized in that the [PO] ~~consists~~ comprises of an alpha-L-glutamate or alpha-L-glutamic homopolymer.

13. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the [PO] ~~consists~~ comprises of an alpha-L-aspartate or alpha-L-aspartic homopolymer.

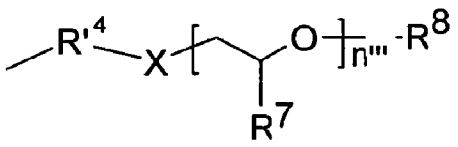
14. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the [PO] ~~consists~~ comprises of an alpha-L-aspartate/alpha-L-glutamate or alpha-L-aspartic/alpha-L-glutamic copolymer.

15. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in the [PO], the distribution of the aspartic and/or glutamic units carrying grafts containing at least one [HG] unit is such that the resulting polymer is either random or of the block type or of the multiblock type.

16. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the molecular weight of the [PO] is between 2000 and 100,000 g/mol ~~and preferably between 5000 and 40,000 g/mol~~.

17. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the [PO] carries at least one graft of the polyalkylene glycol type bonded to a glutamate and/or aspartate unit.

18. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the graft of the polyalkylene glycol type has formula (V) below:



(V)

in which:

R'^4 is a direct bond or a "spacer" based on 1 to 4 amino acid units;

X is a heteroatom selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of: oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

R^7 and R^8 independently are H or a linear C1 to C4 alkyl;

n''' varies from 10 to 1000 ~~and preferably from 50 to 300~~.

19. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 17 [[or 18]], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyalkylene glycol is a polyethylene glycol.

20. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to ~~any one of~~ claim [[s]] 17 [[to 19]], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the molar percentage of polyalkylene glycol grafting varies from 1 to 30%.

21. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1 wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 20~~, ~~characterized in that~~ the hydrophobically modified ~~polymers~~ [PO] are selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of: polyamino acids, polysaccharides ~~(preferably those in the subgroup comprising pullulans and/or chitosans and/or mucopolysaccharides)~~, gelatins and mixtures thereof.

22. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the AP is selected from the group consisting of: a protein, a glycoprotein, a protein bonded to one or more polyalkylene glycol chains ~~[preferably polyethylene glycol (PEG) chains: "PEGylated protein"]~~, a polysaccharide, a liposaccharide, an oligonucleotide, a polynucleotide [[or]] and a peptide~~, said AP preferably being selected from haemoglobins, cytochromes, albumins, interferons, cytokines, antigens,~~

~~antibodies, erythropoietin, insulin, growth hormones, factors vm and IX, interleukins or mixtures thereof, and haemopoiesis stimulating factors~~.

23. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 21, characterized in that~~ the ~~active principle~~ AP is a "small" hydrophobic, hydrophilic or amphiphilic organic molecule.

24. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 22, characterized in that it's the~~ weight fraction of AP not associated with the submicronic particles [non-associated AP], in weight %, is such that:

[non-associated AP] ≤ 1, ~~preferably [non-associated AP] ≤ 0.5~~.

25. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1 wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it~~ the formulation is injectable by the parenteral, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal or intracerebral route or into a tumour.

26. (Currently amended) [[F]] The formulation according to claim 1 wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it~~ the formulation is ~~intended for the preparation of~~ used to prepare drugs~~, particularly~~ for administration by the parenteral, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal or intracerebral route or into a tumour, or by the oral, nasal, vaginal or ocular route.

27. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) Process for the preparation of drugs, particularly for administration by the parenteral, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal or intracerebral route or into a tumour, or by the oral, nasal, vaginal or ocular route, ~~characterized in that it consists essentially in using~~ comprising at least one formulation according to ~~any one of~~ claim [[s]] 1 [[to 26]].

28. (Currently amended) A [[D]] derived product, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising submicronic particles formed of non-covalent PO/AP associations as defined in claim 1, and ~~in that it is~~ obtained from the formulation according to ~~any one of~~ claim [[s]] 1 [[to 26]].

29. (Currently amended) The [[D]] derived product according to claim 28, said product is in ~~characterized in that it consists of~~ a powder or a gel form.

30. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) A [[P]] process for the preparation of the formulation of claim 1, said process comprising the steps of: ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 26, characterized in that it consists essentially in:~~

taking a colloidal suspension of nanoparticles of at least one PO,

mixing this colloidal suspension of nanoparticles of PO with at least one AP, ~~preferably~~ in aqueous solution, and

~~optionally adding at least one excipient,~~

adjusting the pH and/or the osmolarity if necessary~~, and~~

~~optionally filtering the resulting suspension~~.

31. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) A [[P]] process according to claim 30, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one AP is [[(are)]] in the form of an aqueous suspension or solution for mixing with the colloidal suspension of nanoparticles of PO.

32. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) A [[P]] process for the preparation of the formulation of claim 1, said process comprising the steps of: ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 26, characterized in that it consists essentially in:~~

taking a powder of nanoparticles of at least one PO,

mixing this powder with an aqueous suspension or solution of at least one AP, ~~preferably~~ in aqueous solution, and

~~optionally adding at least one excipient,~~

adjusting the pH and/or the osmolarity if necessary~~, and~~

~~optionally filtering the resulting suspension~~.

33. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) A [[P]] process for the preparation of the formulation

of claim 1, said process comprising the steps of: ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 26, characterized in that it consists essentially in:~~

taking a powder produced by drying the liquid formulation ~~according to~~ according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~,

mixing this powder with an aqueous liquid medium, and ~~preferably with stirring, optionally adding at least one excipient,~~

adjusting the pH and/or the osmolarity if necessary~~, and optionally filtering the resulting suspension~~.

34. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) A [[P]] process for the preparation of a powder derived from the formulation of claim 1, wherein ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 26, characterized in that~~ said powder is obtained by drying the formulation of claim 1 ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 26~~.